

II. REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A. Status of claims

Claims 1-37, 39-46 and 49-52 were previously canceled without prejudice.

Claims 38, 47, 48, and 53-62 are currently pending.

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by virtue of this amendment.

B. Response to the Election Requirement

In the Office Action, the Examiner requested that Applicants elect “for the purposes of search, a single species of sustained release carrier such as alkylcellulose, hydroxyalkylcellulose, etc.” (emphasis in the original).

In response, Applicants elect without traverse alkylcellulose.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has also requested that Applicants elect “for the purposes of search, a single species of pain such as cancer, post-surgical, etc.” (emphasis in the original).

In response, Applicants elect without traverse cancer pain.

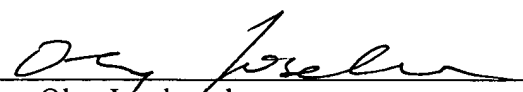
Applicants submit that claims 38 and 55 are generic, and that claims 47, 48, 53, 54, and 56-62 encompass the elected species.

III. CONCLUSION

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below in the event that a telephonic interview will advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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